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SWANSCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

Thirteenth Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, 1938

SWANSCOMBE:
Printed by Morecroft & Son, 70a, High Street, Galley Hill.

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Thirteenth Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, 1938

BY

C. M. OCKWELL

M.D. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), D.P.H. (Camb.)

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SWANSCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members of the

SWANSCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Thirteenth Annual Report of the Council.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA.

Area (in acres)	2142
Population (Census 1931)	8541
Present Estimated Population	8230
Number of inhabited houses (includes separately rated flats)	2190
Rateable Value	£58475
Sum represented by a penny rate	£230

		Total	M.	F.
Live Births	Legitimate	132	69	63
	Illegitimate	3	1	2

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 16.4

	Total	M.	F.
Stillbirths	7	2	5

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) 49.2

	Total	M.	F.
Deaths	83	45	38

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 10

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

		Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No. 29	Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
No. 30	Other puerperal causes	—	—
Total	... ...	—	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	44.4
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	45.4
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	14
,, ,, Measles (all ages)	0
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	0
,, ,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) ...	0

CAUSES OF DEATH

	M.	F.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—
Measles	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Influenza	2	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	4	3
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	1	—
Syphilis	—	—
General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	—	—
Cancer, Malignant Disease	6	8
Diabetes	—	—

Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	3	3
Heart Disease	5	9
Aneurysm	—	—
Other Circulatory Diseases	4	5
Bronchitis	3	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	4	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—
Peptic Ulcer	1	—
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	—	—
Appendicitis	1	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—
Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	—	—
Nephritis	—	—
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	—	—
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes	—	—
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	3	2
Senility	1	2
Suicide	—	—
Other Violence	—	—
Other Defined Diseases	7	2
Causes Ill-defined or Unknown	—	—

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health : C. M. OCKWELL, M.D. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), D.P.H. (Camb.), part time, appointed October 1st, 1926.

Sanitary Inspector : L. E. CROUCHER (who is also Surveyor), M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I., appointed July 1st, 1926.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector : F. W. SHARPE (part time).

There are no further developments under the following heads :—

Nursing in the Home. **Ambulance Facilities.**
Midwives. **Hospitals.**
Legislation in Force. **Rivers and Streams.**
Maternity and Nursing Homes.

The local St. John Ambulance, with those of the local works, have proved themselves adequate to the needs of the District.

County Laboratory.

The following specimens were dealt with from this district :—

Diphtheria Swabs	28
Sputa (for tubercle bacillus)	31
No. of samples of effluent from the Outfall Works	8
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid	—
Serum for Typhus	—
Schools' milk samples : Bacteriological test for cleanliness	21
Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1923	3
Haemolytic Streptococci Swab	3
No. of samples of water from Swimming Pool ...	4
No. of samples of water from Dwellings' Domestic Supply	1
No. of samples of water from Factories	13

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Sewage Disposal Works.

In consequence of the improvement shown by the experimental system of dilution, permanent pumping plant has been laid down.

The plant consists of a 4" centrifugal pump which conveys water obtained from an adjacent lake to the works.

Samples have been taken from the effluent obtained by the Port of London Authority, and are within the limits imposed by their "impurity figure."

Water.—All houses are supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board.

Main Extensions :

Mounts Road	...	...	...	8
Lane Avenue	...	...	...	16
Knockhall Road	...	...	...	4
Albert Road	...	...	...	6
Plaster Products	...	...	...	1
1-2, Betsham Road	...	...	...	2
				37

Drainage and Sewage.

Houses connected :

Local Authorities	...	...	...	28
Other Bodies	...	...	...	17
				45

	No. in District	No. of visits in 1938	No. of faults and defects found	No. of faults and defects Remedied
Bakehouses	8	18	13	13
Dairies	4	8	—	—
Slaughterhouses { Registered	2	161 } 317	1	1
Slaughterhouses { Licensed	2	156 }		
Other food-preparing places which are, as such, subject to inspection	28	59	8	8
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—
Common Lodging houses	—	—	—	—
Houses-let-in-lodgings	—	—	—	—
Factories	23	46	2	2
Workshops	22	39	3	3
Workplaces (other than outworkers' homes) ...	15	12	3	3

Nuisances and Defects remedied during the Year (other than those enumerated in the above Tabulation).

Overcrowding	—	Miscellaneous	29
Keeping of Animals ...	2	Refuse Receptacles ...	115
Hop-pickers' Camp ...	—	Tents, Vans and Sheds ...	1
Sanitary Accommodation		Smoke Nuisances ...	—
(i) Insufficient ...	353	Yard Paving	38
(ii) Defective	42	Dampness	32
Drainage		Roofs and Rain Water	
(i) Re-constructed ...	4	Pipes	69
(ii) Repaired	10	Floors	18
(iii) Cleansed	17	Walls and Ceilings ...	77
Cesspools		Windows and Ventilation	25
(i) Abolished ...	1	Baths, Lavatory Basins	
(ii) Repaired	—	and Sinks	4
Offensive Accumulations	1	Water Supplies	2

Total number of visits of all kinds paid by Inspector(s) during the year 3454

Approximate number of separate **premises** in area ... 2204

Number of **premises** containing each type of sanitary convenience in district (approximate) :—

W.C.'s into drainage system, 2084. W.C.'s into cesspools, 103. Earth closets or privy middens, —. Pail closets, 8.

Number of **premises** not connected to public water supplies, 2.

Notices served : Statutory, 498. Informal, 184.

Number of houses, etc., disinfected, 23.

Batches of clothing, 27.

Shops Act, 1934.

No action was taken under the above Act.

Swimming Bath.

Attendances at the Swimming Pool were as follows :—

Adults Swimming	11,011
Children paid for Admission	10,404
Children from Schools (paid for by Kent Education Committee)	2,834

Bacteriological Examination of samples proved to be satisfactory.

Eradiction of Bed Bugs.

(1) The number of (a) Council houses, 4 ; (b) other houses, 3 ; (i) found to be infested, 7 ; (ii) disinfested, 7.

(2) The method employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs is by sulphur fumigation. (Flour of Sulphur.)

(3) The method employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses : Inspection and disinfestation before occupation.

(4) The work of disinfestation : (a) Council houses Local Authority. (b) Private houses, owners or occupiers.

SCHOOLS

Sanitary Conveniences.

Water Closets and Lavatory Basins sufficient for the requirements.

Drinking Water.

Supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board.

HOUSING

Clearance Area. (Orchard Road, Alma Road and The Grove.)

The Ministry of Health, after a Local Enquiry held on 13th February, 1938, confirmed the order made by the Council of 23rd November, 1937, for the compulsory acquisition of lands in the above area with minor modifications.

(1) A small portion of land was excluded.

(2) 10 houses were excluded and may be purchased by the Council under Section 27 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Negotiations are proceeding at the present time with regard to the purchase of these 10 houses.

The remaining 42 are included below in the list of houses for demolition. Of these houses 30 are now empty—23 families have been re-housed, 18 of these at the Knockhall Site, where 28 houses have been completed.

Housing Statistics.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses :

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses **inspected** for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	524
Number of inspections made for that purpose	524
(2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under the preceding heading) which were **inspected** and **recorded** under the Housing Consolidated Amendment Regulations, 1925 and 1932	199
Number of inspections made for that purpose	199
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	44
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	72

2. Remedy of Defects **without** Service of Formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of **informal** action by the Local Authority or their Officers	75

3. Action under Statutory Powers :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 72

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By Owners 43

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners 0

(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 516

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By Owners 318

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners 0

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 4

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... —

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... —

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined. The tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... —

(e)(1)	Total number of houses owned by the Local Authority ... ... (59 are being sold ; 20 are sold)	540
(2)	Number of new houses built during 1938 :—	
	(a) By the Local Authority	28
	(b) By other bodies or persons	14

Housing Act, 1936. Overcrowding :—

(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	3
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ...	3
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	27
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	—
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	3
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	26
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	—

Milk Supply.

Of the 21 samples of School Milk taken all were found to be satisfactory.

Carcases Inspected and condemned.

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	103	17	73	858	1709
Number inspected	99	14	65	758	1709
All diseases except Tuberculosis ... ... Whole carcases condemned	0	0	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	0	0	0	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	1.01%	0	0	0	0.17%
Tuberculosis only ... ... Whole carcases condemned	0	1	0	0	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0	7.14%	0	0	0.08%

NUTRITION AND GENERAL HEALTH EDUCATION

Health Week.

A highly successful Health Week with Exhibition was held at Swanscombe from 31st January to 4th February, 1938. All the Meetings were full attended—"Standing Room Only" might well describe the attendances. The co-operation of the Schools was obtained through the help of the Headmasters and Teachers. Displays of Folk and Country Dancing, Gymnastics and Health Tableau were given, as also talks on Physical Fitness, Cancer, Social Hygiene, Mothercraft, Nutrition and Diphtheria immunization. Suitable accompanying films were shown. Altogether it proved an encouraging venture.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1938.

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	16	4	—
Diphtheria	3	3	—
Enteric Fever (including Para-typhoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—
Other diseases generally notifiable	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—
	21	7	—

Disease	Age under 1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 and up's	Total
Scarlet Fever ...		1	1		6	6		2				16
Diphtheria ...					2	1						3
Puerperal Pyrexia								1				1
Pneumonia ...												
Erysipelas ...										1		1

Diphtheria Immunization.

217 Children were immunized. Of these 59 were under School age, 158 were of School age.

The routine prophylactic is A.P.T. 1st Injection, 0.1 cc. ; 2nd Injection, 0.5 cc.

By the courtesy of the Medical Officer and Health Visitor, the inoculations of pre-school children were done at the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Cases			Vision un-im-paired	Vision im-paired	Total Blind-ness	Deaths
Notified	Treated					
	At home	In Hospital				
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
5								
10								
15			2				1	
20	1							
25	2				1	1		
35					1			
45		2			2			1
65 and upwards								
	3	2	2	0	4	1	1	1

Ratio of non-notified deaths to total Tuberculosis deaths 0

The efficiency of Notification in the Area is fairly good.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories with mechanical power	85	5	—
Factories without mechanical power	12	3	—
Other premises under the Act	—	—	—
Totals ...	97	8	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars	Number of Defects			No. of Prosecutions
	Found	Reme-died	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ...	1	1	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	2	2	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—				
Insufficent	1	1	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—
Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	—
Other offences	2	2	—	—
Total	8	8	—	—

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

There was no need for action under these Regulations.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.
„ „ „ 1936, „ 172.

There was no occasion for action under these Sections.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. M. OCKWELL,
Medical Officer of Health